

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 AID-05 EA-06 EUR-12

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /092 W

----- 025230

R 051255Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8494

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5994

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJ: INDO-PAK RELATIONS

REFS: A. NEW DELHI 5921 B. ISLAMABAD 3829

1. POLCOUNSELOR DID NOT LEARN MUCH FROM CHIB ABOUT NEXT STEPS IN INDO-PAK RELATIONS DURING CONVERSATION MAY 2. CHIB ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BHUTTO'S LETTER TO MRS. GANDHI (REF B) SEEMED TO BE OF GENERALLY HELPFUL TONE, BUT SAID THAT SINCE MRS. GANDHI, FONMIN, AND FONSEC WERE IN KINGSTON, WHERE THE MESSAGE WAS REPEATED, HE REALLY DIDN'T HAVE ANY DEFINITIVE READING ON THE GOI REACTION.

2. CHIB EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT BHUTTO'S CONTINUING TO REFER TO DISCUSSIONS ON KASHMIR, BUT ALSO NOTED THAT THE INDIAN VIEW WAS THAT UNTIL SOME CLEAR UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED ON THAT ISSUE, ONE COULD REALLY NOT CONSIDER THAT INDO-PAK RELATIONS COULD REACH A POINT OF GENUINE NORMALIZATION. IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT HE CONTINUED TO BE VAGUE ON GOI
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VIEWS ABOUT REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS LATER THIS

SUMMER, EVEN IF AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS WITH PAK FONSEC AGHA SHAHI IN THE TALKS BEGINNING MAY 15.

3. CHIB ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE TRADE DISCUSSIONS HAD GONE RELATIVELY WELL AND THAT THE INDIANS ANTICIPATED THE GOP WOULD WANT TO REVIEW FURTHER PURCHASES IN ISLAMABAD BEFORE PLACING ADDITIONAL FIRM ORDERS. IN THE SAME WAY, THE GOI HAD AGAIN RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF REOPENING RAIL CONNECTIONS AND THE PAKISTANIS HAD AGREED THEY WOULD RAISE THIS SUBJECT ONCE MORE WHEN THEY RETURNED HOME.

4. CHIB DID COMMENT THAT PROPAGANDA ON RADIO PAKISTAN HAD FALLEN OFF AND THAT THE GOI HAD INSTRUCTED AIR TO STOP HITTING AWAY AT THE PAKS AS WELL. HE SAID THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT CRITICISM OF THE US AND US ARMS POLICY IN THE PRECEDING WEEKS HAD STEMMED AT LEAST IN SUBSTANTIAL PART FROM THE INDIAN POLICY OF "TIT-FOR-TAT" PROPAGANDA ATTACKS AGAINST PAKISTAN WHENEVER PAKISTAN, AND PARTICULARLY BHUTTO, TOOK OFF AGAINST INDIA. AS THE INDO-PAK PROPAGANDA BARRAGE SUBSIDED, SO DID REFERENCES TO "MASSIVE ARMS BUILDUPS" AND "EXTERNAL THREATS", ALTHOUGH TO SOME EXTENT THESE CONTINUE TO APPEAR IN THE PRESS. (EMBASSY IS DOING SEPARATE REVIEW OF RECENT RECORD ON THIS FRONT WHICH WILL BE SENT MAY 6.)

5. DEPUTY FOMIN BIPIN PAL DAS DID REVIEW FOR PARLIAMENT (LOK SABHA) MAY 2 GENERAL INDIAN OBJECTION TO PAK MILITARY BUILDUP WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SIZE AND PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUAL STATES, AND INDIAN OBJECTION TO PAK CRITICISMS OF MRS. GANDHI'S AGREEMENT WITH SHEIKH ABDULLAH ON KASHMIR. THIS WAS IN CONTEXT OF SUMMARIZING MRS. GANDHI'S MARCH LETTER TO BHUTTO. AT THE SAME TIME, THE DEPUTY MINISTER DECLINED TO MAKE PUBLIC MRS. GANDHI'S AND BHUTTO'S RECENT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITHOUT GOP APPROVAL.

6. COMMENT: CHIB WAS VERY CAUTIOUS THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATION, PRESUMABLY ACCURATELY REFLECTING HIS OWN UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHAT HIS LEADERS' REACTIONS WILL BE TO THE LATEST BHUTTO MESSAGE. HIS REMARKS ON KASHMIR, HOWEVER, MAY LEND SOME SUPPORT TO PAK SUSPICIONS THAT THE INDIANS WANT TO GET THE GOP TO COMMIT ITSELF ON ACCEPTING THE STATUS QUO IN KASHMIR BEFORE
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CONSIDERING THAT THE SIMLA PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED RATHER THAN LEAVING KASHMIR TO BE DISCUSSED AFTER DIPLOMATIC NORMALIZATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, KASHMIR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE05994
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750156-1097
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750581/aaaacwci.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NEW DELHI 5921, 75 ISLAMABAD 3829
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDO-PAK RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006